

**State Board of Education
September 15, 2009
Item H-5**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: Legal Division; Student Support Team

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education approve the request of the Chittenden Central Supervisory Union to waive State Board of Education Rule 2120.8.2(b) allowing the Essex Community Educational Center to staff its health office with 3.2 FTE for the 2009-10 school year?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education approve the request of the Chittenden Central Supervisory Union to waive State Board of Education Rule 2120.8.2(b) allowing the Essex Community Educational Center to staff its health office with 3.2 FTE for the 2009-10 school year?

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 16 V.S.A. § 165; State Board of Education Rule 2121

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

One of the school nurses at the Essex Community Education Center has resigned her position. School Quality Standards currently require a school nurse for every 500 students. The school currently has 1800 students which equates to 3.6 School Nurse FTEs. The superintendent, principal and head school nurse have determined that the needs of the school can be met during the 2009-2010 school year with 3.2 FTE. They have based this conclusion on an exit interview with the resignee as well as the fact that a large number of CTE students are off-site in cooperative and or apprentice work experiences during the school day.

Commissioner Vilaseca has reviewed and supports this request.

NB: This waiver is for the 2009-2010 academic year only, and any renewal thereof will require proof that the interests of students are being well served.

COST IMPLICATIONS: Efficiency in allocating local resources

STAFF AVAILABLE: Mark Oettinger, General Counsel; Kathy Blanchard, School Support Coordinator; Karin Edwards, Director, School Support; Deb Quackenbush, Assistant Director, School Support



Chittenden Central Supervisory Union

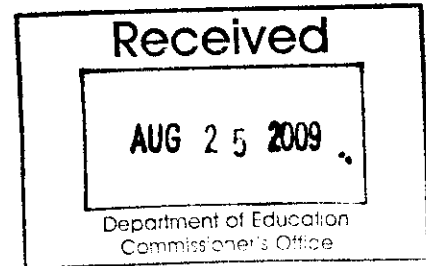
Serving the Essex Junction, Union #46, and Westford Town School Districts

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August 19, 2009

Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501



RE: School Quality Standards Waiver Request

Dear Commissioner Vilaseca:

I am requesting a waiver from the *Vermont Department of Education – State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices - School Quality Standards (SQS)*, specifically Section 2120.8.5(b) addressing the staffing of School Nurse services. Section 2120.8.5(b) specifies that, “*There shall be no more than 500 students per school nurse.*”

We will presently have approximately 1,800 students at our Essex Community Educational Center, serving the Center for Technology-Essex and Essex High School, which under SQS would require about 3.6 School Nurse FTE. We have received a recent resignation from one of our school nurses who was assigned to work 0.90 FTE. As part of her exit interview, she indicated one of the reasons she was resigning was because she wasn't busy enough. She felt there was not enough work available to support the staffing level in our health office.

Based on the information obtained from the exit interview, and thereafter consulting with the head nurse around adequate staffing levels, we conclude that 3.2 FTE is enough to satisfy our school nurse staffing needs for the 2009-10 school year, and request a waiver from the SQS to enable us to staff our health office at 3.2 FTE for the 2009-10 school year, and to maintain a student to staff ratio of no more than 600:1 in subsequent years. Logic further supporting this request is that a large number of our CTE students are frequently off-site in cooperative and/or apprentice work experiences. In this economy we need to make sure we spend our resources where they are needed most and tax payers cannot afford the burden of supporting unnecessary resources.

Please feel free to contact me or Deb Robbins if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Deweese, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Cc: Rob Reardon
Kathy Finck
Deb Robbins
file